

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A fusible conductor for a fuse element, said fusible conductor comprising:

an electrically insulating core;

a fusible wire wound about and in direct contact with the core forming a plurality of first windings; and

an electrically insulated fibre wound about and in direct contact with the core, the electrically insulated fibre wound parallel to the fusible wire, the electrically insulated fibre forming a plurality of second windings disposed between each of said plurality of fusible wire windings wherein the insulating fibre in one or more of the second windings is adjacent a surface of the fusible wire of a pair of successive first windings.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The fusible conductor of claim 12, wherein both fusible wires and also the insulating fibre have an approximately circular cross section and the ratio of the diameter of the fusible wire to that of the insulating fibre is between 1/3 and 3.

15. (Previously Presented) The fusible conductor of claim 14, wherein the ratio of the diameter of the fusible wire to that of the insulating fibre is between 1 and 3.

16. (Previously Presented) The fusible conductor of claim 12, wherein the fusible wire has an approximately circular cross section and wherein the insulating fibre is situated between adjacent turns of the fusible wire such that the spacing between the turns is 0.2 to 2 time the diameter of the fusible wire.

17. (Previously Presented) The fusible conductor of claim 16, wherein the spacing between turns is smaller than the diameter of the fusible wire.

18. (Previously Presented) The fusible conductor of claim 16, wherein the outer surface of the wound fusible wire projects beyond the outer surface of the insulating fibre.

19. (Previously Presented) The fusible conductor of claim 14, wherein the core has a circular cross section and the cross sectional dimensions of the insulating fibre are smaller than the diameter of the core.

20. (Previously Presented) The fusible conductor of claim 12, wherein the insulating fibre consists of one or more glass fibres.

21. (Previously Presented) The fusible conductor of claim 12, wherein the insulating fibre consists of one or more ceramic fibres.

22. (Previously Presented) The fusible conductor of claim 12, wherein the core consists of one or more glass fibres.

23. (Withdrawn) The fusible conductor of claim 12 wherein said insulating fibre has an approximately circular cross section having a given diameter and is configured to deform to a flattened strip when wound about said core.

24. (Withdrawn) A fusible conductor for a fuse element comprising:

an electrically insulating core;
a fusible wire wound about said core forming a plurality of windings;
an insulating fibre wound about the core and disposed between each of said plurality of fusible wire windings such that the insulating fibre is adjacent a fusible wire of a subsequent winding, said insulating fiber having an approximately circular cross section and configured to deform to a relatively flat cross section when wound around said core.

25. (New) The fusible conductor of claim 12, wherein the fusible wire and the insulating fibre are wound such that no portion of the fusible wire is positioned between the insulating fiber and the electrically insulated core.

26. (New) The fusible conductor of claim 12, wherein the electrically insulated core has a longitudinal axis, and wherein the electrically insulated fibre prevents movement of the fusible wire in the longitudinal direction to thereby prevent a short circuit of adjacent turns of the fusible wire.